

125 Old Hyde Road
Weston, CT 06883

To whom it may concern:

I am the Chairman of the Public Library Board in Weston, CT. We are a small municipal library. Our townspeople frequent other libraries in our area given our limited materials budget. We also have patrons from surrounding towns who frequent our library for its convenience. Additionally, given some of the Governor's proposals currently on the table, it may require our town officials to greatly reduce our library's operating budget going forward. This may also occur in surrounding communities and elsewhere in the state. A 10% cut to the State Library budget would be an additional blow to all libraries in the State of Connecticut.

The State Library budget has already experienced significant funding cuts over the past few years. This is taking it way too far.

In order to cut 10% from the state library budget request, as mandated by Governor Malloy, officials have decided to eliminate the borrowIT (formerly Connecticard) program. Currently, any library card holder in the state can go into any public library in the state and borrow items. Libraries are reimbursed for lending these materials. The reimbursement for each transaction, for which the average cost is \$1.05, is only \$.22. Libraries depend on reimbursement monies for funding important programs. For a cost of approximately \$800,000, the borrowIT program saves libraries about \$58,000,000, the cost of the nearly 4 million items borrowed. Also, the borrowIT items represent 15% of the total circulation in Connecticut's public libraries. If the funding is lost, many libraries will have to charge outside borrowers a yearly membership fee—a fee that will have a greater impact on patrons in lower income brackets—to borrow from their collections; federal matching funds will be lost; and circulation will go down.

I, therefore, wholeheartedly support the executive board of the Association of Connecticut Library Board's strong recommendation that legislators retain the borrowIT funding, in the amount of \$806,000 each year of the FY 2018-2019 budget, in order to keep Connecticut's public library services strong.

Please restore the funding to protect the borrowIT program.

Amy Sanborn
Chair Weston Public Library Board Chairman

(modified slightly from email submission)